LOWER SECONDARY ARITHMETIC BOOK, PART III, WRITTEN BY T. LEKSHMIKUTTY WARASSIAR—PARTICULARS REGARDING

187. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the year in which the Lower Secondary Arithmetic Book Part III written by Sreemathi T. Lekshmikutty Warassiar was first prescribed by the Text Book Committee;

(*b*) the year in which the Arithmetic Book revised by Mr. T. S. Somanatha Ayyar was prescribed and for how many years and for what price;

(*c*) will Government be pleased to place on the Table the sample copy produced before the Text Book Committee and the copy available in the market;

(*d*) will Government be pleased to state in an approximate manner the number of copies purchased by the students for their use;

(*e*) have Government or the authorities concerned compared the copy available in the market with the sample copy produced before the Committee and the copy that was first prescribed;

(*f*) will Government be pleased to place on the Table a copy of the Arithmetic book that was first prescribed?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) Edavam, 1112.

(*b*) Edavam, 1114 for 3 years at annas. 11 each.

(*c*) Books are placed on the Council Table.

(*d*) Government have no information.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Copy is placed on the Table.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know, Sir, whether Government have noted the difference in the paper that is used for the sample copy and for the copies sold out in the market?

Mr. President: But strict instructions have been issued now, and it was admitted by the Director that the Inspecting officers did not really devote their attention to that aspect of the question. Now, I think arrangements are made by which Inspectors are supplied with copies of the original book and asked to compare and see that the quality of the paper is exactly the same as of the original.

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Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* In the Cochin Government Gazette of the 29th of Vrischigam a notification was found like this.—

"Complaints have been received from the public that Lower Secondary Arithmetic Book, Part III by Sy. T. Lakshmikutty Warasiar and revised by Mr. T. S. Somanatha Ayyar, contains many mistakes especially in the answers given at the end. On enquiry it is found that the Publishers, Messrs. V. Sundara Ayyar and Sons, Trichur, have sent out some old books with new revised covers."

What I wish to suggest is, why should the pupils be penalised for a mistake that has been committed by the booksellers, Messrs. V. Sundara Ayyar and Sons. They go to the market to purchase books. The books that are available are old books with new covers, and they have paid the price therefor. Why should the students who have paid for the books be put to unnecessary loss?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* The students are not penalised at all. On the contrary, it is proposed to re-imburse them if the copies are presented. Half the price will be re-imbursed to them. If they have paid Rs. 2 for the book one rupee will be paid back.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Will not they have to spend Rs. 3 for a correct book?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Suppose a boy has paid 11 annas for a book, and that book is found to be not suitable for the class to which it is intended. He will get back only $5\frac{1}{2}$ annas and he will have to spend 11 annas again for a correct book. Thus he loses $5\frac{1}{2}$ annas.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* The facts are these. The first occasion that this came to the notice of the department was when the publishers themselves wrote to us and said that by mistake some copies—they were not able to give us the exact number—have been wrongly bound and sent out. Then I told them that they should replace the books immediately as soon as they were returned. They said that the difficulty was that in many cases the books returned to them had no cover. So for every book returned half the price was asked to be repaid.

Mr. President: That means the student is penalised. If a wrong book has been sold, the publisher must get it back and replace it by the correct book.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* At least a free copy the corrections would have satisfied the pupils.

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Mr. President: Yes, if it is found that the corrections are few, a correction slip should have been issued.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* That they are willing to do.

Mr. President: That is what should have been done.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* I am told that the paper used for the sample copy is entirely different from the paper in the other copies. Of course, Government will consider that matter. With regard to this matter, certainly on behalf of the students I wish to make this representation, that they should not be penalised for the mistakes committed by Messrs. Sundara Ayyar and Sons. I hope Government will seriously consider this question and find their way to see that the books are replaced.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* How long after the purchase of the books by the students, was the mistake found out?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* This came about in 1114. The revision was done in 1113.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* How many months after the supply of the books?

Mr. President: It is an old story.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* A very old story, Sir.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* This book was prescribed in 1114, and the other in 1112. The book is still in force. May I know whether any complaint has been received from the students that the book that is furnished is not a correct book?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Sir, there seems to be some misunderstanding, and I am anxious to explain it away. The fact was first brought to my notice by the publishers themselves. I have not received any complaint from any other source. Then I sent for the person who wrote, and for the person who revised it. Then I went through the corrections, and they were prepared to replace all the new copies sold in this wrong fashion. But their point was that some of the copies originally sold were brought back without the covers, and even that they will have to replace at half-price.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* In the book that is produced here, the year of the publication will be found. By a mere comparison it will easily be found out whether it is a revised book or it is not a revised book.

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Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Even the books that were sent out with the new cover were printed in 1112. If they were also produced, they will have to pay the cost. The complaint is that the old books were sold with a new wrapper.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Did not the complaint originate from the gentlemen who revised the book? The book was written by somebody and revised by another. Complaints were raised by students and teachers when they began to use the books some of which reached the teacher who revised it, and he brought it to the notice of the authorities, and I think he threatened to take legal action against the firm. What happened is this. Wrong answers were given in the book. The students worked out the correct answers. But the answers given in the book were wrong, and they were put to much unnecessary strain. The teachers were also worried over it and the matter became public.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know whether this Somanatha Ayyar sent a registered notice to the publishers, Messrs. V. Sundara Ayyar & Sons, with regard to this matter?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* How are the Government to say that? I can only say that it was brought to my notice only by the publishers. The member said that it is the person responsible for the revision that brought it to the notice of the Department.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Probably not officially?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Not even unofficially. It has never been brought to the notice of the Department by that gentleman.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* I said so because I had something to do in this matter in my capacity as legal adviser.

VATTELUTHU INSCRIPTIONS IN TRIKKUR— DECIPHERING OF

188. Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that there are two slabs with inscriptions in Vatteluthu in the Trikkur temple and if the answer is in the affirmative, will Government kindly state the gist of the inscription?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes. The letters on the slab are so worn out and damaged that it is not possible to decipher them.

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